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*Report on the Desirability of Establishing an Employment Bureau in the City of New York.* By EDWARD T. DEVINE, Schiff Professor of Social Economy, Columbia University, Russell Sage Foundation Publication. (New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1909. Pp. 238. \$1.)

While this unpretending report deals primarily with a local problem, it has much interest for the economist because of its bearing on the problem of mobility of labor, and for the social reformer because of its many suggestions regarding unemployment. The first 34 pages embody the report proper; the remainder of the volume consists of a series of appendices, containing the views of many of the most competent American students, on bad distribution of labor as a cause of unemployment, studies made by the Bureau of Social Research on some phases of the employment bureau question, and other matter of varying interest and value.

The inquiry was the outcome of a proposal made in the fall of 1908 by Jacob H. Schiff that there be established in New York City an employment bureau, which should ultimately create an organization covering all sections of the United States, but having in view immediately the unemployed of New York. The Russell Sage Foundation undertook the expense of this preliminary study by Mr. Devine. It was necessarily hasty and limited in scope. As to the local problem the conclusion is that "there is at all times a need, and in periods of even slight depression a very urgent need, of an efficient system of bringing together as quickly as possible those who are seeking work and those who are seeking workers;" and accepting the argument of the Webbs on this point, the author believes that such a system would appreciably increase the effective demand for workers. After examining carefully all the existing and proposed agencies for meeting this need, he recommends unequivocally the establishment of such a bureau as was suggested by Mr. Schiff, believing that it may by competition help eliminate the evils of existing commercial agencies, may set standards for similar private and public bureaus in the future, and may contribute toward a solution of New York's problem of congested population. Economic students will watch with interest the work of this bureau, which has since been organized. As to the wider issues involved, the

report and appendices show clearly how little we know about labor distribution and unemployment in the United States. Some thirty of our best authorities were asked these three questions: (1) How far is unemployment due to local maladjustment, the failure of men to find existing opportunities for work in their own neighborhood? (2) How far is it due to maladjustment between communities? (3) What are the natural limits of occupational mobility, and how would the possible usefulness of an employment bureau be affected thereby? The replies disclose the entire lack of existing information and, as might be expected, wide diversity of views. This lack of knowledge the author rightly maintains is a good reason for establishing a bureau whose records will help furnish answers to such questions. He holds also that a bureau comprehensively organized would help to decasualize labor, and that it might ultimately be of service in directing young persons into the right occupations. In the absence of any thorough study in this field, Mr. Devine has performed a service in pointing out so many of the problems that need investigation. His usual sound judgment and power of clear statement are displayed throughout the report. A partial bibliography on the subject of employment agencies is added.

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*History of the Bank of England.* By A. ANDRÉADES. Translated by Christabel Meredith, with a Preface by H. S. Foxwell. (London: P. S. King and Son, 1909. Pp. xxxix, 455.)

Professor Andréades of the University of Athens has given in this volume a complete historical account of the Bank of England from the earliest times to a comparatively recent period (about 1903). Professor Foxwell, who has written the general preface which introduces the work, describes it as "the most comprehensive and readable account of the Bank yet published;" and, while this verdict seems perhaps too highly complimentary from some standpoints, it is at all events a work that should prove of substantial service to students of banking, particularly to those who are more interested in questions of banking development than in the technical or theoretical problems connected with the subject.